Official Secrets Act

3062. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Official Secrets Act was a British Legacy having been enacted in 1923;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the law had been substantially amended and updated with the requirements of modern times in Britain; and

(c) whether Government would consider to replace it with another law or amend it to meet the present day India's need?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) The Official secrets Act, 1923 provides for penal action against disclosure of information, which is likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of the Nation, security of the State or friendly relations with other countries as well as on seizure of documents, relating to defence and intelligence, directly or indirectly useful to the enemy. This Act has withstood legal scrutiny. The issue of amendment to the Official Secrets Act, 1923 has been examined by the Government from time to time and it has been decided that there is no need to amend or replace the Act.

Infiltration across the border in J & K

3063. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infiltration across the border in Jammu and Kashmir has recently been found to be increasing every month;

(b) the relevant infiltrations figures for the three months ending July, 2005; and

(c) the details of the actions being contemplated by Government to minimise or eliminate such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, infiltration across the border in the State increased in May, 2005 as compared to the previous months of this